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EDITOR : P. KODANDA RAO. OFFICIATING EDITOR : S. G. VAZE.

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Topics of the Week.

Bombay Franchise Committee's Recommendations.

THE recommendations of the Bombay Franchise Committee are sure to strike any unprejudiced observer as not being sufficiently progressive. The Franchise Committee of the R. T. C. has laid down 10 and 25 per cent. as the minimum and maximum limits for the extension of the franchise. In the course of discussion in the Committee the fear was freely expressed by non-officials that in the conditions in which the Indian constitution was being hammered out the minimum comes somehow to be looked upon as the maximum. The prescribed maximum is either not heard of, at all or, if heard of, is mentioned only as something which is not a matter of practical politics. In spite of such clear warnings the Bombay Franchise Committee has refused to go beyond the minimum of 10 per cent. On the question of the desirability of a second chamber for the Bombay Presidency the Committee has clearly failed to reflect public opinion. By 8 votes to 4 the Committee has recommended the establishment of an upper house, the powers of which would be analogous to those of the Council of State. Lest public opinion should find this too bitter a pill, it is obligingly assured that the province would be expected to put up with a bi-cameral legislature "for the first few years at least." One wonders if even this limitation which

is vague and indefinite on the life of the second chamber would reconcile public opinion to its creation in this presidency. Does the Committee seriously believe that this body, once it is brought into existence, can be easily made to cease to exist? The vested interests it will bring into being may be trusted to put up a tough fight against its abolition. The Committee should have enough worldly wisdom to see that it is as easy to create such an institution as it is difficult to abolish it. In passing it may be pointed out that even the Bombay Government which like all bureaucratic Governments cannot be suspected of holding any very revolutionary views does not regard a second chamber for this province necessary. The local Franchise Committee's suggestion in this behalf seems to be based on considerations of caution bordering upon reactionaryism. It is not intended to examine here all the recommendations made by the Committee. But the two that are referred to by way of sample should be enough to show the unprogressive spirit in which it has discharged its onerous task.

* * *

C. P.'S Excise Policy.

THE public dissatisfaction with the C. P. Excise minister's administration recently found vent in the course of the discussion over a vote of censure moved against him in the budget session of the legislative Council. The general complaint against him was that though the province was committed to total prohibition to be reached in ten years, the minister was if at all doing very little to facilitate the attainment of the goal. The minister for his part pointed out with the aid of statistics how the consumption of liquor was consistently going down. The pace of progress towards the goal, he contended, was faster than was needed by the requirements of the decennial limit. The point in the non-official complaint seemed to be whether this advance was really due to any action taken by the minister or was brought about by such extraneous causes as the vigorous anti-drink propaganda carried on by the Congress and general economic depression. To this the minister could return no satisfactory answer. All the same the censure motion was defeated and the minister stood vindicated.

Our purpose in referring to this matter is really to draw attention to the manageable dimensions of the prohibition problem in that province. According to the Finance Secretary, the excise revenue of the province had fallen from Rs. 156 lakhs a few years ago to Rs. 67 lakhs in the present year and was expected to go down still further to Rs. 63 lakhs next year. If we were to take the revenue from country liquor separately, we find that it was nearly Rs. 64 lakhs in

1929 and went down to about Rs. 49¾ lakhs the next year. In 1931 it was reduced by as much as Rs. 22 lakhs and stood at a little over Rs. 27 lakhs; while during 1932 only about Rs. 24¾ lakhs are expected to be realised from country liquor. It will thus be seen that all that the province has to do in order to attain the goal of prohibition is to find alternative sources of revenue which would eventually yield a maximum of Rs. 63 lakhs in order to fill the gap that may be created by the disappearance of the excise revenue. This aspect of the matter seems to have recently received some attention in the province; but the minister's complaint was about the want of co-operation from non-officials. It really seems a pity that the non-officials should not have yet realised what is only too obvious that if they are keen upon this reform they have got to pay for it in order to make it possible.

* * *

Punjab's Budget.

IN one respect at any rate the Finance Member of the Punjab Government proved more responsive to non-official criticism than the non-official members had bargained for. It seems there was some stray criticism by non-official members about the too detailed nature of the budget presented every year to the council. This kind of complaint was by no means general; but was made during the last two years by only two members. Ordinarily the Finance Member would have taken no notice of a grievance so casually ventilated; but in respect of this complaint he seems to have made up his mind to teach the Legislative Council a lesson. Thus when this year's budget was presented to the Council it was presented in a considerably reduced form. This could obviously not be done except at the cost of much detailed information which non-official members highly value. Indeed they badly need the details in order to enable them to move reductions in some items of grants, which consequently they found themselves unable to do this year, without going too much out of the way in search of the required information. The inconvenience caused to non-official members was too serious to be quietly overlooked. On the matter being raised in the council, it was officially pointed out that the form in which the budget was to be presented to the Council was, under the rules, a matter for the discretion of the Finance Member. This defence showed an imperfect appreciation of the spirit of the rule on the point. For though the rule leaves it to the Finance Member to decide the form of the budget, it also requires him to do this in a manner "best fitted for its consideration by the Council." The novel form given to the budget this year, instead of facilitating its consideration by the Council, actually made it extremely difficult. Even supposing that the Finance Member's interpretation of the rule was correct, he should not have so light-heartedly broken a well established practice which conduced to general convenience. The saving in printing expenses which was cited as an argument in favour of the smaller size of this year's budget must have been too insignificant to set against the inconvenience and dislocation of public business occasioned by it. In spite of the Finance Member's queer behaviour, the Council did well in acting reasonably and proceeding with the consideration of the budget, thus avoiding the postponement of its passage beyond March, which would have invalidated it but which nonetheless seemed at one stage to find general favour in view of the extraordinary behaviour of the Finance Member.

* * *

Court's Decisions on Railwaymen's Complaints.

THE report of the Court of Inquiry into the points of difference between the Railway Board and

the Railwaymen's Federation about retrenchment measures was recently published. Whether the Court's findings will give satisfaction to the Federation or not, there can hardly be any doubt that it has discharged its difficult task in an impartial spirit. It would doubtless have done well to be a little more outspoken in certain respects. To take an illustration. One of the points upon which its verdict was sought was whether in the retrenchment measures already carried out there was any victimisation or favouritism. After trying to define these two terms, the Court refers to the difficulties in the way of expressing any clear-cut opinion on the point, but at the same time appends a list of persons whom it recommends for reinstatement. This action on its part is likely to be generally interpreted as an indication of its unexpressed belief that the measures of retrenchment involved injustice to some workers on either of these grounds. Its decisions on most points referred to it for consideration give one the impression that the measures for cutting down Railway expenditure strike the Court as on the whole unobjectionable. It goes without saying that the Railwaymen's Federation will continue to take a different view of the Railway Board's action designed to reduce expenditure.

For our part we naturally attach greater importance to the Court's recommendations in so far as they relate to the future than to what has happened so far, though we are by no means without sympathy with the railwaymen in the hardships that are being suffered by them as a result of the Board's retrenchment measures. When occasions for retrenchment on a large scale arise in future, it is the Court's suggestion that the orders on the subject should beforehand have secured the approval of a Committee, to be formed in each railway administration. Indeed the Court would like these Committees themselves to be entrusted with the preparation of the necessary instructions to be passed on to administrative officers charged with the duty of carrying out retrenchment measures, workmen's unions being given an opportunity to make suitable representations to the Committee before it passes final orders. If any workman feels dissatisfied with any retrenchment measures, he would have the right to come before the Committee in appeal, when both parties would be allowed to represent their respective view-points. The Court also recommends that in any future measures of economy the guiding consideration should be the period of service rather than the worker's competency or efficiency, those who have put in short service being marked out for discharge. If these recommendations are given effect to, there appears to be no reason why any retrenchment measures the Railway Board may be compelled to take in the future need cause any heart-burnings amongst railway workers.

* * *

Indian Christian Support for Joint Electorates.

SEVERAL prominent Indian Christians in U. P. have issued a statement declaring their whole-hearted adherence to joint electorates under the new constitution. They are convinced that communal representation will not carry them towards responsible government. Further, they say:-

"Our faith in joint electorates is so strong and thorough-going that even if the other minority communities demand separate electorates, we as Christians shall stand by joint electorates. We believe that it is our Christian duty to place national unity and national advancement before communal advantages."

If, however, joint electorates are absolutely impossible under the present circumstances, they express their readiness to accept them with reservation of seats, as a temporary measure.

THE PRINCES' RAMP.

THERE was a sudden outburst last week in many quarters against what they would describe as the Princes' ramp in the federal scheme that was under discussion at the R.T.C. At the Conference itself this voice was rather feeble, and seemed even feebler than it actually was because the Congress, for all its tall talk about democracy ("unqualified democracy" was, we believe, the phrase used by the Mahatma), gave unreserved and somewhat ostentatious support to princely autocracy. The Government took full advantage of the backing the federal scheme received from Gandhiji in so far as it affected the Princes. But for the Congress's acquiescence in the proposed nomination of the States' representatives in the federal legislature, first the Sankey Committee and later the Premier and the Viceroy would not have regarded this as an "accepted" feature of the federal scheme, in spite of the warm opposition it evoked in the Committee from some of its members. The general complaint is that the Government did not give to the voice of the solitary representative of the Congress the overwhelming weight that is due to it. That may be so, but it is also true that when it suited the Government it was quite willing to attach an inflated importance to Mahatma Gandhi's utterances. For it could not have been unaware of the fact that the country as a whole or even the Congress as a body does not share Mahatma Gandhi's weakness for the rulers of Indian States. There was not a single leading Congressman who before Gandhiji left for England had expressed or even hinted at the views to which Gandhiji gave voice at the Conference. Nor was there a single leading Congress journal which did so. In fact Gandhiji himself was known to have spoken in a different strain before. At that time the voice of the Mahatma and of the Congress was to the Government of no consequence. But when it suddenly began to speak differently at the Conference, the Government was quick to recognise in it the nation's voice and said that, the nation having accepted the Princes' nomination, it was no longer an open question which could be discussed at the Consultative Committee. Fancy, it was left to Sir Parashurama Patro to declare in an interview after the Committee's meetings were over that this question as well as several others was one on which a decision had yet to be taken. There is no doubt to our mind that if public opinion has an opportunity of expressing itself it will do so in an ever increasing volume against the nomination idea though, in doing so, it will have to oppose both the Government and the Mahatma together!

The present spurt of opposition is a very good indication of it. Sir Kurma Reddy, who was till the other day the Government of India's Agent in South Africa, was impelled to express his implacable hostility to a federation dominated by the Princes. As President of a meeting in Madras held on the 11th inst. he said: "They were launching on a new experiment for which there was no parallel in the history of mankind. They were asking for a federation of a number of Indian States where autocratic rule prevailed and provinces in which representa-

tive institutions were existing." We do not suppose that Sir Kurma meant that federation should be held up till the "autocratic rule" of the Princes converted itself into constitutional rule. That would not be a practical proposition. But to ask that these rulers, whatever the character of their rule in their own States may be, shall as units of a democratic federation agree to adopt constitutional practices is not to make an unreasonable demand. This limited demand too was not put forward by the Mahatma because, as Mr. Joshi shrewdly observed in the Legislative Assembly on the 12th inst., "the British Government's assertion that there could be no central responsibility unless the States joined the federation emboldened the States to dictate terms." Even Sir. C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, who is now sitting on the Consultative Committee more as a representative of the States than of British India, felt compelled to challenge this assertion. But Mahatma Gandhi, in spite of the clear proof to the contrary afforded by the Government of India dispatch, accepted it, and, doing so, he was inevitably led by the logic of facts to submit to the Princes' dictation, as Mr. Joshi puts it. Sir Kurma Reddy does not believe that federation is an antecedent condition of central responsibility, and therefore he will not have federation at all costs. Referring to the opposition of H. H. the Jamsaheb (whose accession to Chancellorship may, however, lead to a variation in his attitude) and other Kathiawad Princes, Sir Kurma said that owing to it perhaps the federation might break, but he for his part would not be sorry on that account. This is a remarkable statement; rather than have a federation with States whose rulers insist upon importing their autocracy into British India, he would have no federation at all.

Equally remarkable was the speech made by Sir Abdur Rahim in the Legislative Assembly in the debate on the supply for the Executive Council. He too was downright in his opposition to nomination. He said: "There were fundamental differences in the institutions and mentality of the people in British India and the states. There was no political life whatever, not even an independent newspaper, in Indian states." "Could any one deny," he asked, "that the Indian States' representatives would act in the legislature as the Indian Princes, through the Political Department's influence, would want them to act? That would create the same official bloc as existed at present." "In fact," he continued, "we will be worse off than to-day because now at least we know these gentlemen opposite. They are with us in British India." He also opposed the weightage proposed and, as the Sankey Committee and the Government no doubt think, decided to be given to the Princes. With one-third reserved to the States and with one-third to the Mahomedans, the Hindus—a majority community—would be left with a share in the remaining one-third, which Sir Abdur said would be a "ridiculous" ratio. It is the fashion among Hindu politi-

cians to look upon themselves as the only people who have a wide outlook and who care for democracy and to represent the Mahomedans as caring only for their particular interests. Here we have a Mahomedan politician in the front rank who takes exception to the federal scheme because it would be unjust to the Hindus and fatal to democracy, whereas the Hindu democrats, even unqualified democrats, at that, swallow a scheme which wrongs at once their own section and the whole community. Similarly, it was reserved for certain other Mahomedans and Hindus who are popularly supposed not to be of a sufficiently go-ahead character in politics to point out at the Federal Structure Committee that the federal scheme evolved by it would, instead of making an advance in popular government, result in a definite setback.

But recently indications are not wanting that Congress leaders are not too easy in their mind as to the line that the Mahatma took at the R.T.C. For a time it looked as if they were quite willing to abjure their political principles and put away their eagerness for democracy so far as the States were concerned. They were stunned by the Mahatma's doings at the Conference on this question, but they felt at the time that they must not queer the pitch for him by adopting a different course in public. But now that the Conference has failed anyhow, they do not feel the same obligation to keep in with him on this question. For the moment they are not interested in the constitutional issue at all; they have no occasion therefore to make known their point of view. But there is no doubt that that is their view; and if proof of this is desired it may be found in the pages of journals which generally follow the Congress lead. Take for instance the current number of the *Modern Review*, in which the editor in a signed article shows deep concern for the nomination of the States' representatives. He says: "As the States' representatives are proposed to be nominated or selected by their rulers, they would carry out the behests of the latter, but not the mandates of the people of the States. As according to the declaration of the Premier on January 19, 1931, in regard to all matters ceded by the Princes to the federation their relations will be with the British Crown acting through the agency of the Viceroy, the Princes will, as at present, be under the necessity of keeping the supreme British-Indian executive in good humour. Hence the votes of the States' representatives will be at the disposal of the Government of India, whenever the latter may stand in need of them. There would also generally be a natural tendency on the part of the Princes' nominees to side with the British-Indian Government, as both are anti-democratic." It is true that these journals would like to throw the whole blame for the Princes' nomination upon the British Government and to make it appear that the Mahatma was not implicated in it in any way. The *Modern Review* itself points to the utter absence of the word election in the Sankey Committee's Report with reference to the States but passes over the significant fact that this word is equally absent in Mahatma Gandhi's speech. But this phase will pass away in course of time and the

Congress leaders will probably apportion the blame more justly hereafter. Anyhow we are not concerned with personalities but principles; and we feel confident that the Congress, when it will take up the question again as it must some day, will follow a different policy from that of the Mahatma. At any rate it will no longer be possible, after the speeches of Sir Abdur Rahim, Sir Kurma Reddy, etc., to pretend that the opposition to the Princes' Ramp comes only from an obscure person or two or from an insignificant journal or two.

Reviews.

ASIATIC POPULATION PROBLEM.

ASIA'S TEEMING MILLIONS: AND ITS PROBLEMS FOR THE WEST. By ETIENNE DENNERY. (Cape) 1931. 21cm. 243p. 10/6.

WE cordially commend to our readers this work by a young Frenchman who travelled extensively throughout our continent before writing it. It is a comparatively slender volume and no elaborate marshalling of the statistical material will be found within its pages. Yet it is one of the most suggestive books on the Asiatic problem that we have come across. The author has made an earnest attempt to get behind the figures at the realities and has in a large measure succeeded in doing so.

The three parts of the book are respectively allotted to the study of the problem in Japan, in China and in India. In Japan the over-population has become very acute for some decades past and the cutting up of the rice fields and the severity of middle class unemployment are every day on the increase. The fundamental similarity of the problem in all Asiatic countries is well brought out by the description of the Japanese middle class unemployment which applies in every detail to the conditions prevailing in India. The Chinese problem is presented in the work chiefly in relation to the peasant migration to Manchuria and the migration of traders and artisans to French Indo-China and the Malay States. The reluctance of the Japanese to emigrate is seen in sharp contrast to the ease with which the Chinaman wanders away from his native land. This has resulted in Manchuria becoming virtually a Chinese colony even while the political and economic influence of Japan has been predominant in that tract. A peculiarly difficult international problem has thus arisen. The Indian migration studied in the book is the emigration of labour from South India to Ceylon, the Malay States, etc. In the case of India—as in other cases also—the study can certainly not be called either exhaustive or all-sided. The data for believing India to be overpopulated is not brought together, neither are the conditions in tracts other than the Madras Presidency described or discussed. Yet even here the chief points are well made. The outstanding features of the problem are the same for all the three Asiatic countries. Continued sub-division of rural holdings and increasing unemployment; high birth rates and high death rates; an extremely limited scope for internal expansion and the acute need felt for an outlet; the existence of the colour bar; the dominance of the whites and the resulting feeling of acute racial hostility: all these are present in Japan, in China and in India. The population problem indeed overshadows everything else in our countries and its magnitude is such and the grip of the whites on the world so strong that the contemplation of the situation reduces one almost to a feeling of helplessness.

No serious student of the problem is, we believe, likely to disagree with M. Dennery's conclusion that its large numbers are no source of strength but are actually a cause of weakness for Asia.

D. R. GADGIL.

TWO ECONOMISTS' WRITINGS.

ECONOMIC ESSAYS AND ADDRESSES. By A. C. FIGOU & DENNIS H. ROBERTSON. (P. S. King & Sons.)

THIS is a reprint in book form of the many articles and addresses from the pen of those distinguished writers who have maintained the reputation of Cambridge as a centre of economic study in its theoretical aspects. The tradition of Marshall has been very ably kept up by Professor Pigou, and Professor Robertson comes a close second. To the professional economist both the writers are well known, not only as acute thinkers but as frequent contributors to the columns of the *Economic Journal*. But it is perhaps necessary that a wider public must know that these economic thinkers are not merely barren professionals but in their own way architects of the economic structure of the present and the immediate future.

Professor Pigou's excursions into mathematical analysis may not interest the general reader but are of real value to the student of economic theory. But his essays on "The Function of Economic Analysis", "Limiting Factors in Wage Rates", and "Stabilisation in Particular Industries" are of interest to the average man interested in business and life. In his first essay Prof. Pigou tells us that "if economic analysis must render the full service it is capable of in helping to guide practice, we need more than the education of statesmen or the provision of an economic general staff. We need also that the main body of the people shall have some training in economics—sufficient training at least to perceive that they do not possess complete training."

"Economics cannot render its full service" says the writer, "perhaps not at all, certainly not without an enormous time lag—unless the nature of the subject matter is understood not only by the expert colleagues but also in some measure by the general body of educated men." We agree.

Professor Pigou, in spite of his flair for *a priori* reasoning is yet a realist in economics. He has his eyes always on the possibilities of improving economic life. The professional economist knows the wonderful work that Prof. Pigou has done by his "Economics of Welfare." In his essay on wage rates he has a good word to say about "profit-sharing" and "labour co-partnership" schemes and opines that in labour co-partnership a way is provided for the saving of the "unused powers" of men in humble circumstances. Prof. Pigou is anxious that the doctrine of living wage ought not to be pressed but suggests that it would be better, if need be, to spend from public funds to ensure "living conditions". He would ask the State to build up human capital—to educate and feed children in the plastic period of their lives, to combat disease and cure sickness. The most hardened socialist cannot suggest anything more constructive.

In his essay on "Stabilisation," he examines price stabilisation and production stabilisation and indicates how far a public authority could confer a benefit on society "by purchasing for stock from producers in times of low demand, and selling it to the public in times of better demand—in so far as the state can carry this activity somewhat beyond the point where conditions of profit taken by themselves would cry a halt."

From the heavy and ponderous analysis of Professor Pigou it is refreshing to turn to Professor Robertson. He takes up for discussion questions of banking and currency policy and his style is quite attractive. It is impossible for the reviewer to analyse in detail each of the papers of Professor Robertson, but it is enough to say that the author has maintained the interest of the reader right through his papers.

Mr. Robertson's criticism of banking policy in England in his paper on "The World Slump" is instructive. Says he: "On the question of the entanglement of banking with industry, I must confine myself to urging the relevance of two propositions: (1) On the face of it the question of the proper character of banking assets is not one which can be settled in vacuo for all time independent of the state of industry, and of the phase that has been reached in what used to be called the trade cycle: (2) The argument that because a bank's deposits are obligations at demand or short notice its assets must be liquid seems to rest partly on the obsolete conception of the method by which—if so inclined—proceeds to withdraw savings from the banks."

Prof. Robertson suggests that industrial depression may be due to the temporary gluttability of large groups of particular human wants. But this analysis seems to require further elucidation from the point of view of consumer's capacity to pay as well as from that of his desires.

Prof. Robertson rightly protests against the doctrine that it is the duty of the banking system to respond passively to the "needs of trade" and fears that it might become a potent instrument of inflation and of oppression to the consumer.

In his essay on "World Finance" Prof. Robertson again tackles the banking problem and tells us that "the more responsive Finance shows herself to the needs of trade, the less she tries to assume control and rule the roost, the more certain she is to fail in her other task of providing a means of payment which is reliable and steady in its value, and the more responsible she becomes for the damaging alternation of inflation and deflation, of trade boom and trade slump."

One is inclined to sympathise with Professor Robertson's analysis of the problems of world finance when he says: "So far as I can see, there are only two possible lines of escape. One is to cure ourselves of the thirst for rapid material progress and to concentrate on redistributing, in some more equitable way, the aggregate leisure which our present command over nature puts at our disposal. The other alternative is to try to control the process of investment." Will Europe learn from India? Mr. Gandhi seems to fit into Professor Robertson's picture at least as part prophet for the reconstruction of the world.

The essays and addresses of these two writers who are both seasoned economists on many questions of the day which are of such vital interest are bound to repay close study by any social thinker and the publishers have done a valuable service to the student of economic life by bringing together in book form their different papers.

S. V. AYYAR.

INDUSTRIAL AND SOCIAL LEGISLATION.

GUIDE TO INDUSTRIAL AND SOCIAL LEGISLATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE. By F. ROBERTS. (Gee & Co., London.) 1931. 22cm. 318p. 10/6.

SOCIAL workers in this country, particularly trade union leaders, welfare workers and secretaries of

trusts instituted for charitable purposes, have been seriously handicapped by the absence of a handy publication which would render available to them in easy compass the legal knowledge on certain aspects of their work so necessary to them for the efficient discharge of their duties. True, there are at present in the market a large number of legal publications that effectively cover the ground; but social workers, except in cases where they happen to be lawyers also, have rarely either the requisite legal knowledge or the leisure to understand and make full use of such technical publications. The book under review which outlines social, industrial and, to a limited extent, commercial legislation affecting the public in general, not from the point of view of the legal expert, but from the strictly utilitarian view-point of the layman, fully caters to this need.

The publication breaks new and useful ground in its well documented chapters on Trade Unions and Trade Disputes, Co-partnership, Employers' Liability and Workmen's Compensation, National Health Insurance, Unemployment Insurance, the Pensions Acts and Factories and Workshops. As the trade union movement in the country is still in its infancy, it is no matter for surprise that the generality of our trade union leaders, particularly those drawn from the rank and file, are not fully, or even to a satisfactory extent, acquainted with the legal and often highly technical aspects of the problems which they have to handle in the course of their every day work. For instance, of how many of our trade union leaders can even a satisfactory working knowledge be predicated of the laws and rules governing such subjects as strikes and lock-outs, picketing and prevention of intimidation, arbitration and conciliation, the appointment of conciliation boards and industrial courts, accident compensation, contributory negligence and common employment, industrial diseases and malingering, and a host of other matters connected with the many-sided activities of trade unions? Then, again, is not the whole field of social insurance—the different national systems of health and unemployment insurance and the practical details about the collection of contributions, the basis of levy, the methods of payment, and the various kinds of benefits conferred—general, medical, sickness and disablement, and maternity benefits—practically unexplored and unmapped country as far as the average social worker in this country is concerned? Yet, in view of the phenomenal development during the last decade of trade union activity in India and the increasing sphere of influence of our trade unions, adequate knowledge on these subjects is essential to the growing numbers of our social workers whose work is intimately connected with industrial development. To such Mr. Roberts' book can be confidently recommended as a handy and useful book of reference. The value of the book is lessened to Indian users to some extent by the fact that it is concerned solely with the law and practice in Great Britain with regard to these subjects. Fortunately, this does not detract much from its practical value as social legislation in this country is modelled largely on British precedents and, as despite marked disparities in environmental conditions, there is still a great deal of common ground between the course of industrial development in Great Britain and India.

The book is, however, something more than a handy manual for trade union leaders. The chapters on Agents and Agency, Trustees and Trust Property and Local Government contain valuable information for local government and bank officers, accountants, trustees and social workers of all kinds, as also for students appearing for professional and commercial diplomas. In particular, the glossary of commercial terms, the specimen questions set at recent examina-

tions and the select, but eminently useful, bibliography appended to the book serve to enhance its usefulness to readers who are new to the subject of social legislation.

K. E. MATTHEW.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

PROBLEMS OF WORLD ECONOMY. By V. G. KALE. [Sir William Meyer Lectures, 1931.] (University of Madras.) 1931. 25cm. 163p. Rs. 2.

AS the author asserts, there is a tendency on the part of some German writers to divide Economics into individual economy, national economy, world economy and state economy. The propriety of this division may be disputed but it is fair to admit that some specialized study of international economic relations is increasingly necessary on account of our growing interdependence upon one another. The universal depression, that we are now face to face with, is not of the periodic type but is directly traceable to the effects of the Great War. The author gives a detailed treatment of the nature, the scope and the effects of crises in general and shows how the present depression embraces within its sphere all countries alike—rich as well as poor, manufacturing as well as agricultural. For this particular reason, it requires special diagnosis and treatment.

The discussion of crises prepares the ground for a closer study of 'World Economy.' This is both useful and indispensable in view of the disconcerting complexity of modern economic life. In this connection, Professor Kale rightly refers to the World Economic Conference of 1927. External obligations arising out of the Great War have a great international significance. The War also set in motion certain tendencies towards industrialization which were apparent long before 1913 in some countries. The World Economic Conference was useful inasmuch as it brought into prominence the questions of the wholesale economic reconstruction of Europe, of the rationalization of agriculture, commerce and industry, of the legitimate claims of labour and of the reduction of tariffs. The author summarises some of the valuable discussions and proceeds ultimately to the question of reparations and inter-allied debts, to the control of trade by cartels, to the problem of unemployment and to the mal-distribution of gold in the various countries of the world.

The treatment of the subject-matter of World Economy is scholarly and displays extensive study on the part of Prof. Kale. He is refreshingly plain in some of his remarks and even tries to examine, though only by the way, the reactions of the present depression upon our country.

A. MUKHTAR.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF CHRISTIANITY.

RELIGION AND POLITICS. THE SOCIAL SERVICE LECTURE, 1931. By CHRISTOPHER ADDISON. (Epworth Press, London.) 1931. 21cm. 84p. 2/6.

DR. ADDISON, the Beckly lecturer for 1931, has a claim to be heard with respect because of his distinguished position in the public life of England and also because of his eminent services in the field of social advancement. The Beckly lecture, delivered every year, is a Methodist Church Foundation, whose functions are "to set forth the social implications of Christianity and to further the development of a Christian sociology and the expression of the Christian attitude in reference to social, industrial, economic and international subjects." Sympathy for human

needs, though not too widespread, is happily growing. An uneasy feeling haunts us at the sight of squalor and suffering of our neighbours, for we fear that we may be held responsible by the Great Judge as our brothers' keepers for this.

What is the message of the Gospel? Is it that of moral and spiritual regeneration only as held by Dean Inge in his Beckly lecture for 1930 or that of social reform also, as propounded by Dr. Addison? Christians seem to be slowly working up to their sense of responsibility in realizing the duty enjoined upon them by the second great command that they should love their neighbour as themselves.

One of the reasons which quickened the spread of Free Churches in England as against the Established Church was the aloofness of the latter from the people—their problems, sorrows and tears. As it was in the time of Hosea, so unfortunately it is largely to-day in India. The spiritual aristocracy has not much in common with the penury of the villagers and the incessant struggles and discontents that characterise the working life of our growing industrial centres. What has the Indian Church done to remedy the present order of things under which only one per cent. of the Indian revenues is spent on public health and 62 p. c. on war services? The Indian Labour Commission's report reveals a state of affairs regarding health, housing and conditions of service of the factory worker on which Christian opinion must assert itself. "Religion must take account of these things and continue to insist on redress," says Dr. Addison, and "if it does not, it will surely fail to appeal to the people." If Christianity is in that plight to-day in India, it is largely due to the fact that the Church has kept mum when its platform should have been thundering against the oppression of the all powerful landlord, the capitalist, the high caste, the money-lender and the bureaucrat. The Pulpit provides the proper forum for ventilating the ills from which the weak suffer. If it fails in its duty as it has done in the past, the Church will lose whatever respect it commands now, and Russia's religious history of the last decade may be repeated here too. In the last chapter, Dr. Addison asks if the power of the Church for good has been adequately measured. If the Church were to mobilise its powers, no government could stand against it. The machinery and organisation of modern life and industry affect the lives and opportunities of the people in so many vital respects and they are so powerful either to depress or elevate the standard of life that the isolated individual is helpless before them, that the organised forces of society are looked to more and more for the purpose of safeguarding the interests of the individual. These things are politics and religion cannot separate itself from them save to its own hurt and to the hurt of humanity.

Dr. Addison has joined issues repeatedly with the lecturer of the previous year, Dean Inge, in his reactionary views, and I have no doubt that the former represents the steadily growing Christian public opinion that it is the function of the Church, handed down to it from its Lord Christ to insist upon a better order of things to prevail where people shall have unrestricted facilities to grow to their full stature, and thus help in fulfilling their Master's mission—"I have come that they might have life and have it more abundantly." The book is a splendid exposition of the underlying ideas in the story of the good samaritan and deserves attention from all who are labouring to establish the Kingdom of God on Earth through a redeemed society.

S. P. ANDREWS-DUBE.

CHRISTIAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE EAST.

THE GOSPEL FOR ASIA. By KENNETH SAUNDERS. (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, London.) 22cm. 245p. 10/6.

THIS is a study of three religious masterpieces: the Gita, the Lotus and the Fourth Gospel.

The prevailing attitude of the Christianised countries towards the East—and especially India—can be summed up in the following words given at the beginning of this study:—

"Are East and West impenetrable to one another? By no means; man is the same everywhere. The interpreters? Go to the sources.... Can we find in the knowledge of the East an enrichment of our culture? Yes. In what field—art, letters, philosophy? In all three *What values make the superiority of the West? Christianity.*" (Paul Claudell.)

After being almost companionably fair-minded and just towards "the East" throughout, the writer of the above cannot of course resist the baneful habit of ending with a note of unblushing patronage and superior assumption. The so-called superiority of the West may or may not be a product of that mythical (has it ever existed?) Christianity. But certainly modern—European—and American—civilisation has had nothing to do with Christ. To claim 'superiority' on the values of Christianity to the West is to lower the sublime standards of the avowed founder of the religion of the Fourth Gospel.

But this is misleading. The whole book breathes a more tolerant and understanding atmosphere with regard to the Krishna of the Bhagavat-Gita, to Sakyamuni, and to the Lotus than we can meet with even in the most "advanced and progressive Christian thought", and it is unfortunate that the author should have found it necessary to prefix such a dogmatic statement of Paul Claudell's (whoever that is marring the tone of the book from the very beginning.

The author has with wonderful persistency and scholarship shown the remarkable likeness between the three masterpieces of religion. We are almost tempted to turn a Brahmo Samajist: but subtly he turns our vagrant inclinations towards the "Way, the Truth and the Life." But even here we cannot help noticing with what great depth of respect and gratitude the writer speaks of the calm repose of the religion of the Lotus, or the brooding Presence of the philosophy of the Gita. Here are passages which touch the gamut of the whole book:

"We have likened these books to great religious buildings. From the prologue of the Fourth Gospel it is hard to pass on, so splendid is this noble porch of mingled Greek and Hebrew form, with its great threefold doorway. The worshipper will pass on... will meet with Jew and Samaritan, Greek enquirer and priestly opponent and find in their midst Christ, at once their Friend and their Judge... Thus we are prepared to pass into what may be called the Holy place of the Temple... Like solemn music are His discourse of the vine and its branches, His promise of the comforter... Darkness seems to triumph, but light overcomes it... These things we miss in a Hindu shrine. The first impression we get is that of complexity of shadowy depths... Yet it may be that the Hindu is right in claiming that here is a grand reconciliation of various moods of the soul... and we begin to understand how it is that a Sankara among philosophers, a Gandhi among social reformers and even a brigand like Sivaji can draw their chief inspiration from this source... The Lotus is easier for the Western mind to perceive. Everyone enjoys... its lotus ponds... its spacious courtyards... There is nothing here to repel... we are in serene light... compassionate and noble figures."

But, however, lifting out of ourselves such beautiful symbolic studies may be, and however bracing and intellectually refreshing such distinctions, the great question mark still remains: "Whom say ye that I am?" The author concludes:

"What, then, has Christianity to offer? In addition to its noble concept of the kingdom of God, and much more fundamental, is the Person of the Historic Jesus . . . For in Jesus the Love and Purity and Righteousness of God are presented in a simpler, more dramatic and more constraining form than even in the historic Sakya-muni. Jesus is the one asset of the Christian Church. Yet he is enough. In a sense which is not true of Sakya-muni, Jesus is His religion. To the great motive 'for the kingdom' He adds the greater one 'for me'. Now, it is a matter of History that the Buddhist world is not and has never been, as centred in Sakya-muni as the Christian world in Jesus."

Has the Christian world been centred in Christ?

Then, indeed, Jesus can come to the East with the Church, otherwise He will have to throw away all His Western impediments and settle down to His ministry in Asia in the midst of its Lotus pools and its humble shrines.

A. MADHAVA MENON.

SHORT NOTICES.

THE HISTORY AND ECONOMICS OF TRANSPORT. By ADAM W. KIRKALDY AND ALFRED DUDLEY EVANS. (5th Edn.) (Pitman.) 1931. 22cm. 455p. 16/-

ECONOMICS of the Transport, which has come to be studied systematically only in recent years, has now been included in the curriculum for Commerce degrees in most of the foreign universities. It has also been recently included in the curriculum for the Commerce degree of the Bombay University. The principal aim of the book has been to treat Economics of Transport in a scientific way. The book deals mainly with methods of Transport, their development, railway economics, canal economics, civil aviation and economics of shipping and ocean transport. The work being elementary, the authors have found it impossible to treat every branch of the subject in detail. The authors have not avoided controversial points and have remarkably succeeded in presenting both sides of every controversy. The utility of the present edition is considerably enhanced by the treatment of the problem of civil aviation which is included in it. The progress of civil aviation since August 1919 has been phenomenal. In spite of the element of danger inseparable from it, air transport has been made a successful business proposition. The author's treatment of the subject, though sketchy, is very enlightening. Though the book has been written primarily with a view to produce an elementary text-book for students, it is of interest even to others.

M. R. DHEKNEY.

LEGENDS OF INDIA. By WASHBURN HOPKINS. (Yale University Press, New Haven.) 20cm. 183p. \$2.00.

THE author, it appears from the list of his works, is a lover of ancient Indian history. In the present volume he has dressed up a few well selected Indian legends in English verse. The style, though slightly archaic, is chaste and metres are in every instance suitable to the subject matter. Western readers interested in Indian mythical lore will find in this neat little volume a priceless treasure.

SEVANANDA.

Correspondence.

NEW ELECTORAL CONSTITUENCIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SERVANT OF INDIA.

SIR,—I have read with much interest my friend, Mr. Joshi's, first contribution on "Indian Labour and the R. T. C." in your issue of the 4th February. There are things in it with which I do not agree. In particular I cannot agree with his views about the representation of Native States' subjects. But I would like to emphasise as strongly as possible for the attention of all concerned what Mr. Joshi has—in my opinion quite correctly—written about the ideal settlement of the new electoral constituencies.

"For the proper solution of economic problems," Mr. Joshi has stated, "the division of the community for the purpose of government and legislation ought to be on the basis of occupation or trade . . . But unfortunately the idea seems to be too revolutionary for the present-day Indian politician".

May I add that the territorial constituency, especially the single-member territorial constituency, is by this time an obsolete anomaly in every country of the world? It corresponds to nothing which has reality or actuality left. It represents no live interest anywhere in India, with its huge size, and its vertically and horizontally divided population, its different castes, religions and languages, and its widely-separated occupations and economic interests, it is even more artificial than in any other country that I know. No legislatures based on such constituencies can ever succeed in giving India a live and fruitful representation. On the other hand, constituencies based on occupation and trade correspond to the main living interests of mankind. They have been worked out in detail in the Italian constitution, and have in Italy proved entirely satisfactory and effective. In particular they give the workers adequate and satisfying representation. There will be of course be difficulties to be met in introducing the system into India, as there are always in everything new. But these difficulties are by no means insurmountable. On the contrary, they will be found less hard to overcome than those which confront any other system. The only true and important difficulty is the subjective one to which Mr. Joshi refers, namely, the Indian politician's inclination to view it as "too revolutionary." I trust, however, that even at this eleventh hour there may be found some to recognise and urge the claims of such a system and converts numerous enough to make its immediate introduction feasible. Yours, etc.

OTTO ROTHFIELD.

Barcelona, Feb. 24.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- ECONOMIC INVESTIGATIONS IN THE HYDERABAD STATE, 1929-30, Vol. 1.** By S. KESHAVA IYENGAR. (Govt. Central Press, Hyderabad, Deccan.) 1931. 25cm. 173p. Rs. 5.
- CRIME IN INDIA.** By Cecil Walsh. (Benn.) 1930. 22cm. 287p. 10/6.
- HISTORY OF INDIAN CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE.** By B. E. DADACHANJI. (2nd Edn.) Taraporewalla, Bombay.) 1931. 21cm. 247p. Rs. 3/4.
- CHINA IN REVOLT.** By S. K. VIDYARTHI. (Vanguard Publishing Co., 41 Hanuman Terrace, Bombay 7.) 18cm. 80p. As. 8.